

CAPITAL LETTER:

'Kitchen Cabinet' Ingredients

By RUTH MONTGOMERY

WASHINGTON: If Lady Bird Johnson ever decides to form a "Kitchen Cabinet" of advisers, as Presidents do, she could find no more versatile collection of "women do-ers" than the wives of her husband's recent selections for high office. For instance:

Mrs. Abe Fortas, cigar-smoking spouse of the new appointee to the Supreme Court, is a top lawyer in her own right. Under her maiden name of Caroline Eugenia Agger she heads the tax division of Arnold, Fortas and Porter, the legal firm which her husband is



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Since the firm handles numerous cases before the Supreme Court, and "Miss Agger" intends to stay on in active practice, Justice Fortas will probably have to disqualify himself from a number of cases which come before the highest bench.

Mrs. Fortas, who collects antique furniture and jewelry, usually smokes small cigars in public, but puffs on the big fat ones in her home and office.

Mrs. Hubert H. Humphrey asked to help finance her husband's college education, but has been busily raising a family in the intervening years. She is now planning to write a tender, loving book about their mentally retarded granddaughter, four-year-old Vicky. She wants no ghost-writer and in preparation for the task, is studying the prose style of novelist Pearl Buck, who 15 years ago wrote a book about her own mentally retarded child.

Mrs. Arthur Goldberg, wife of our

new ambassador to the United Nations, is a gifted professional artist who had innumerable one-man shows before abandoning the palette when her husband joined the Supreme Court three years ago.

Mrs. John W. Chancellor, wife of the NBC television commentator whom LBJ drafted to head the Voice of America, used to illustrate textbooks for children under her maiden name of Barbara Upshaw. The Chancellors' six-year-old daughter, Laura, proudly brought home her first grade primer when she started to public school. Sure enough, her mummy had designed it.

Lady Bird's "Kitchen Cabinet" would have a cosmopolitan linguistic flair, Mrs. John Gardner, whose husband is the newly appointed Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, was born in Guatemala, and prepares yummy Latin American dishes when they entertain. Her mother and brother still live in Guatemala City.

Mrs. Robert Wood Akers, wife of the newly appointed deputy director of the U.S. Information Agency, has fluent command of five languages. Born in Germany, she lived in France and Spain before moving to Houston, where she met and married Akers. An accomplished professional photographer, the former Baroness Sibylle Von Kaskel was touring the world with her husband when the long arm of President Johnson reached across the seas to tap him for government service.

The First Lady plans to resume her "women do-ers" luncheons in the Fall. Since she customarily has some lady-of-accomplishment make a speech each time, it looks like the President has provided her with a rich lode of available talent right in the official family.

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